

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the above amendment, the claims will be 10 to 14.

The above amendment presents new claims 11 to 14 which correspond to previous claims 6 to 9 but are now dependent on claim 10.

Claims 5 to 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takemura et al. (U.S. 5,759,739) in view of Yoshimoto et al. (EP 0540 032 A1) and Suwa et al. (U.S. 6,187,504 B1).

This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 5 to 9 in view of the fact that there are no counterpart claims presently asserted.

Claims 5, 6 and 8 to 10 have been rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 8 to 14 of commonly assigned U.S. 6,340,553. In reply, there is submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer which disclaims the terminal portion of any patent maturing from the present application which extends beyond the expiration date of Assignee's earlier patent.

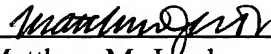
No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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